

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3953

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, HA
SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN RANGEL'S VISIT TO HAITI

REF: (A) STATE 18492, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 0222

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES CONGRESSMAN RANGEL'S INTENTION TO FOLLOW-UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN HAITI. WE SUGGEST RANGEL CONCENTRATE ON THREE AREAS OF CONCERN WHICH WE ARE ALSO EMPHASIZING IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH INFLUENTIAL HAITIANS:

A. FULL AND COMPLETE ACCOUNTING OF ALL PRISONERS. IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH ITS CREDIBILITY, GOH MUST IDENTIFY ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IT STILL HOLDS BY NAME AND GIVE REASONS WHY THEY ARE HELD. AS PART OF THIS PROCESS, GOH MUST FACE UP TO PAINFUL TASK OF ACCOUNTING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED DURING THEIR IMPRISONMENT.

B. IMPROVEMENT OF PROCEDURES. IN ADDITION TO ACKNOWLEDGING ARRESTS AND PUBLISHING CHARGES, GOH SHOULD ALLOW PRISONERS TO RECEIVE VISITS FROM FAMILTIES AND TO SEND AND RECEIVE MAIL. MINIMUM STANDARDS OF HYGIENE AND SANITATION SHOULD BE OBSERVED AND PROVISION MADE FOR REGULAR OPEN-AIR EXERCISE. SICK PRISONERS SHOULD RECEIVE
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PROMPT AND PROPER NEDICAL ATTENTION.

C. INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION. IN ORDER TO COUNTER CHARGES MADE BY BISSED EXILE GROUPS AND WELL-INTENTIONED BUT ILL-INFORMED ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, GOH SHOULD INVITE HIGHLY-REGARDED INTERNATIONAL BODY SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS OR

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES, WHICH HAS EXPERIENCE FROM INVESTIGATIONS ON BEHALF OF ILO (INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION), TO VISIT HAITI AND MAKE A PUBLIC REPORT ON PRISON CONDITIONS AND RIGHTS OF PRISONERS.

D. RANGEL MIGHT MAKE ADDITIONAL INQUIRY AS TO WHAT REQUIREMENTS GOH SETS FOR READMISSION TO HAITI OF FORMER EXILES.

2. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INDICATION OF ADDITIONAL RELEASES OF PRISONERS OR OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN HAITI. AS NOTED IN EMBASSY REPORT ON RANLEL VISIT (REF B), AMBASSADOR SALOMON APPARENTLY INTIMATED THAT RANGEL VISIT WOULD PRODUCE POSITIVE STEP BY GOH AND PRESIDENT MADE SIMILAR BUT MORE VAGUE ALLUSIONS. NEVERTHELESS, GOH AWARE OF IMPORTANCE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN PARTICULAR ATTACHES TO THIS SUBJECT AND WILL PRESUMABLY TAKE NEW STEPS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD WHEN IT JUDGES CONDITIONS ARE PROPITIOUS. REPRESENTATIONS BY CONGRESSMAN RANGEL MAY HOPEFULLY REINFORCE THAT INCLINATION.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH RANGEL WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT TAKE OCCASION TO PLACE IN PERSPECTIVE CERTAIN SELF-SERVING STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN BRIEFING BOOK AMBASSADOR SALOMON HANDED RANGEL PRIOR TO VISIT. SUMMARY OF THIS PAPER POUCHED ARA/CAR.

4. IT WILL, OF COURSE, BE IMPORTANT THAT CONGRESSMAN KEEP US CURRENTLY POSTED ON HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SALOMON SO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT WE CAN PROVIDE APPROPRIATE REINFORCEMENT, OR AMPLIFICATION, FROM THIS END. SINCE GOH HAS THUS FAR MADE NO COMMENT ON OUR REPORT TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER, RANGEL MIGHT ASK WHETHER SALOMAN HAS FORWARDED COPIES TO HIS GOVERNMENT.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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